



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/610,691	06/30/2003	Scott L. Kern	TELE-0024	2932
7590	02/24/2005		EXAMINER	
Joseph R. Condo, Esquire WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP 46th Floor One Liberty Place Philadelphia, PA 19103			BROADHEAD, BRIAN J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3661	

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



Office Action Summary

Application No.	Applicant(s)
10/610,691	KERN ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit
Brian J. Broadhead	3661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-47 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 37-46 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-24, 27-36 and 47 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 25 and 26 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 30 June 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12-12-03.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.
- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-24, 27-33, 36, and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Graham et al., 6587765

The applied reference has a common inventor with the instant application.

Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Graham et al. clearly disclose the limitations of the current invention. Graham et al. do not claim the three engines and transmissions of the current invention, but on lines 10-13, on column 5; lines 38-40, on column 6; lines 27-41, on column 7; and lines

46-61, on column 19; Graham et al. make it clear that multiple powertrains can be controlled by one control lever and that more than two powertrains can be controlled.

3. Claims 27, 31, 32, 33, and 36, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant's Declaration and Exhibit A.
4. The figures in the exhibit show the buttons to put the powertrain in neutral along with the LED indicators.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 34, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Declaration and Exhibit A.
7. Applicant's Declaration and Exhibit A disclose all the limitations except the momentary switches and toggles switches. Official notice is taken that momentary switches and toggle switches are well known in the art and are widely used. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use momentary or toggle switches with the admitted prior art because such modification is a design choice.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 37-46 are allowed.

9. Claims 25 and 26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

10. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art does not disclose a marine vessel controlling a third transmission based on a first and second transmission; at least one of the engines is an electronic engine, and wherein the ECU that is coupled to the electronic engine controls the throttle of the electronic engine by providing at least one of an analog voltage signal and a digital data packet to the electronic engine; and at least one of the transmissions is an electronic transmission, and wherein the ECU that is coupled to the electronic transmission controls the shift position of the electronic transmission by providing at least one of an analog voltage signal and a digital data packet to the electronic transmission.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian J. Broadhead whose telephone number is 703-308-9033. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on 703-305-8233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


BJB


THOMAS G. BLACK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 3600